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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY COMMUNIST CHINA

DATE OF Mar. 2-8, 1953
INFORMATION

SUBJECT INDICATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL VULNERABILITIES

DATE DIST. 15 Apr 1953

HOW
PUBLISHEDWHERE
PUBLISHEDDATE
PUBLISHED

LANGUAGE

CHANGE TO
UNCLASSIFIED
PER REGRADING
BULLETIN NO. 20

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Monitored Broadcasts

CPW Report No. 64-A -- COMMUNIST CHINA

(Mar. 2 - 8, 1953)

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SUMMARY

After its first announcement of Stalin's illness, the Chinese radio concentrates all facilities on broadcasting communiques and stressing Chinese sympathy. Entire newscasts are devoted to the subject, with regional stations dropping their regular programs to relay Peking reports. The Peking Central Broadcasting Station announces it will use all its facilities for a full eight-hour day to broadcast memorial services, which the entire nation must observe. Such concern over the death of a foreign leader, unprecedented in any country, serves to show the true relationship between the Russian leaders and China's present rulers.

Eisenhower's psychological warfare measures are "frightening" to the British and American people, though the Chinese are unimpressed. The Korean visit of French leaders shows Eisenhower's scheme to use Bao Dai puppets, and the Americans indirectly are accused of using Japanese soldiers in Korea. The Resist America-Air Korea drive, getting very little nation-wide publicity, evidently is concentrated on recruitment of trained personnel for Korea, while moves to bolster the militia admittedly are needed to cope with the "latent power of the enemy," still strong in lake and coastal areas. A British dye shortage resulting from the embargo is admitted, though Soviet substitutes are described as adequate and superior.

Cadres are warned to take seriously informers' reports, with hints that those not religiously observing Party directions may be declared "enemies of the people." Talks on popular elections give leaders an opportunity to laud the Russian election system as the "most democratic in the world." The mockery of Communist-type elections is illustrated by reports that "elected officials" rated as "overly bureaucratic" are thrown out of office, apparently by mob action.

Resistance to the Marriage Law demonstrates the difficulty in overthrowing ancient Chinese customs and practices, even with desirable social reform clearly involved. Care and moderation used here by the Communists indicate they realize the difficulty and may be using the drive against feudal marriage customs and practices as an entering wedge for attacks on other customs and institutions.

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